

HOUSE BILL NO. 658

INTRODUCED BY J. SINRUD

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THAT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PROVIDE A CUSTOMER WITH A DETAILED ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF MEDICAL SERVICES AND PROCEDURES THAT THE CUSTOMER IS LIKELY TO NEED IN ANY NONEMERGENCY SITUATION; ESTABLISHING THE PROVISION OF COST INFORMATION AS A CONDITION FOR HOSPITAL LICENSURE; AND AMENDING SECTION 50-5-203, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 50-5-203, MCA, is amended to read:

"50-5-203. Application for license. The procedure to apply for a license is as follows:

(1) At least 30 days prior to the opening of a facility and after that no later than the expiration date of the license, application is made to the department accompanied by the license fee.

(2) The application ~~shall~~ must contain:

(a) the name and address of the applicant if an individual, the name and address of each member if a firm, partnership, or association, or the name and address of each officer if a corporation;

(b) the location of the facility;

(c) the name of the person or persons who will manage or supervise the facility;

(d) the number and type of patients or residents for which care is provided;

(e) any information ~~which~~ that the department may require pertaining to the number, experience, and training of employees;

(f) information on ownership, contract, or lease agreement if operated by a person other than the owner; and

(g) detailed information concerning estimated costs of medical services and procedures that the facility may offer to patients in nonemergency situations and the hospital administration's plan for providing this information to a customer and prior to the customer's receiving any medical services as a patient in the facility. For the purposes of this subsection (2)(g), "nonemergency situation" means a situation in which the patient does not enter the facility needing or seeking emergency treatment, as defined by the hospital administration in

1 accordance with rules adopted by the department."

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3 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Cost estimate required -- exception.** (1) A health care facility licensed
4 under 50-5-201 through 50-5-204 shall provide to any customer or potential customer a reasonable estimate
5 of the costs of medical services and procedures that the customer is likely to need while the customer is a
6 patient in the facility. The estimate may be based upon the average charge for a procedure in the past year and
7 may state that individual charges may vary.

8 (2) A health care facility is not required to comply with the provisions in subsection (1) if the customer
9 is admitted to the hospital in an emergency situation, as defined by the hospital administration in accordance
10 with rules adopted by the department.

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 2] is intended to be codified as an
13 integral part of Title 50, chapter 5, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 5, apply to [section 2].

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